

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the flame-retardant polyamide composition comprises defined amounts of a polyamide (A), a flame retardant (B), the combination of zinc borate and zinc phosphate (C), an inorganic reinforcing material (D), and a drip preventing agent (E). The preference for zinc phosphate to be used with the zinc borate is described in the specification, such as in the last paragraph on page 14. Furthermore, it will be noted that the majority of the illustrative Examples set forth in Table 1 on pages 28 and 29 include the combination of zinc borate and zinc phosphate and can provide superior results with respect to one or more of the described characteristics. Particularly, Example 2 and Example 5 have the same ratio of zinc borate and the other salt of zinc (zinc phosphate and zinc stannate, respectively). It is noted that Examples 2 and 5 have different amounts of flame retardant (B) (23 wt.% vs. 21 wt.%). The effects of reducing the amount of flame retardant (B) can be seen from the comparison of Examples 1 and 4, i.e., the flammable combustion time is shortened, the toughness is improved, the color stability is improved, and the flow length is almost the same or slightly decreased. Thus, Applicant believes that the total properties of flame retardant composition tend to be improved by reducing the amount of flame retardant (B). Furthermore, it is expected that the modified composition of Example 2 having the same reduced amount of flame retardant (B) as Example 5 would have superior reflow heat-resistant temperature and color stability compared to Example 5.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the evidence of record, applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims are patentable over the combination of JP 2001-220441 and newly cited Chaplin, U.S. Patent No. 5,338,791. The JP '441

publication relates to a combustion-resistant polyamide composition and has been discussed in the remarks of previous responses. The Examiner has discussed the JP '441 publication on pages 3-4 of the Action and has further relied on Chaplin to show a 1:1 combination of zinc borate and zinc stannate.

Even assuming that a proper basis exists for relying on Chaplin to modify the teachings of the JP '441 publication, the hypothetical combination of documents would not result in the presently claimed flame-resistant polyamide composition which specifically recites the combination of zinc borate and zinc phosphate in the defined mass ratio. Indeed, by describing the combination of zinc borate and a divalent metal stannate in column 1, Chaplin would lead away from the composition now specifically recited in claim 1. Furthermore, neither of the documents recognizes the advantageous results illustrated in Table 1 that can be attained in accordance with the presently claimed invention.

Thus, in view of the amendments to the claims and the evidence that has been provided, applicant respectfully maintains that the claims now of record are patentable over the cited prior art and therefore requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the present application, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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